



Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

January 2018

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months at the Outdoor Chattanooga offices on River Street. Directions to the meeting site are on the club website: chatthiking.com

Next meeting – Monday February 5, 2018



Cloudland Connector picture from Jenny



Pinhoti pictures above and right from Barbara

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Cloudland Connector

Wednesday November 29, 2017

A large group of hikers set off from the Ascalon Trailhead in Cloudland Canyon, hiking the 1.5 mile Can't Hardly Trail, then joining the Cloudland Connector Trail for another 3.5 miles before lunch. We returned 5 miles to the trailhead via the Cloudland Connector Trail, for a total of approximately 10 miles. It was a gorgeous day, and everyone had a great time. More hikes in this area to be scheduled! The hikers today were Barbara McCollum, Barbara Miller, Bill Kinnaman, Bob Rahn, Boe Rudder, Charlie Breeding, Edith Behringer, Che Carico, Hank Koeningsmark, Nancy Dell Koeningsmark, Luke Spiekermann, Renee Grace, Richard Park, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Long, Wanda McCarter, Jennifer Yarbrough, Delores Ladd, Steve Turner, Monty Simmons, Susan Basch reporting, Susan Basch and Jenny Hopkins leading.

Georgia Pinhoti Section 25

Saturday December 2, 2017

Three hikers met at the Dalton McDonald's for breakfast and to put the car shuttle in place on Dug Gap Road. We then drove south to Snake Creek Gap where we began our 15.8-mile day hike of Section 12 which is very popular with mountain bikers and hikers. It is commonly referred to as "The Snake" as there are lots of ups and downs and the trail twists around several times. Even though we were hiking northbound, we checked our compass at one point to confirm we were walking southbound. That didn't last long, and we continued on high atop a ridge with great views of the northwest Georgia mountains as well as I-75 to the east. We encountered several mountain bikers who willingly took our group photo. Hikers were promised that we would be off the trail before dark. As we neared Dug Gap Road, we could see numerous communications towers and we knew the second car was close. A full moon was beginning to rise in the East which helped us see our way to the car and ensure that we didn't have to retrieve our headlamps. Enjoying a beautiful late Fall day on the trail were John Rowland, Terri Holcomb, and Barbara McCollum leading.



Upcoming Outings

Monday January 1, 2018

Snooper's Rock/Mullen's Cove Loop day hike

Location: Prentiss Cooper State Forest

Distance: options: 3.7, 6.4-7.4, or 10.2 miles

Rating: options: Easy, Moderate, or Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 35 minutes

Our traditional New Year's Day hike with options: We will all begin with the easy 3.7-mile option starting at the Cumberland Trail parking area, passing by Indian Rock House, and ending at the Snooper's Rock parking area. So everybody gets to visit Snooper's Rock, an iconic viewpoint in this area. Cars will be placed to allow folks who choose this option to then leave. The moderate option will be to return the way we came, either from Snooper's Rock itself or from its parking area; this will provide a hike of 6.4 or 7.4 miles. The strenuous option will be to complete the 10.2 mile loop with a 6.5 mile route which will take us through the Mullen's Cove area, including the Mullen's Cove Overlook, and back to the CT parking lot where we started. Leader is John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com or 423 802-7704. Co-leader will be Barbara McCollum. Hopefully some knowledgeable person can help us out by leading the return trip that constitutes the moderate option.

Saturday January 6, 2018

Gahuti Backcountry day hike

Location: Fort Mountain State Park, Chatsworth GA

Distance: 8.2 mile loop

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 45 minutes

The Gahuti Backcountry loop travels around the crest of Fort Mountain in one of Georgia's finest state parks. A grand view of the Cohutta mountains and Wilderness greets you at the very beginning. Especially during winter, the vistas are exceptional. There are some short steep climbs and descents as the trail leads through the ravines and around the ridge crests. Even though most hiking books rate the trail as moderate, we consider it strenuous due to the continuous ups and downs. To register for this hike, contact one of the co-leaders Tim Chomyn, 706.346.6746 (chomyn@catt.com), or Shelly Claiborne (Sclaiborne96@Outlook.com). There is a \$5 parking fee.

Upcoming Outings

Saturday January 13, 2018

CT, Soddy Creek Gorge (north section) day hike

Location: Soddy Daisy

Distance: 12.1 miles

Elevation Change: 1200 ft of ups and downs

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 15 minutes

The Soddy Creek Gorge Section of the Cumberland Trail is a dramatic stretch that passes through the Little Soddy Historic Mining Area and crosses three watersheds. The trail passes abandoned mines, offers views of deep valleys and high bluffs, and shows off the impressive work of the volunteers who built this section including numerous rock steps and wood steps that climb a rock face along Board Camp Creek. We will be hiking the northern section with trailheads at Little Soddy and Heiss Mountain Road and it will be a shuttle hike. To register, contact Barbara McCollum (bpmccollum@yahoo.com) or 770.289.7143. Co-leading the hike will be Cathy Love.

Saturday January 20, 2018

Lookout Wild Film Festival

Location: Chattanooga

Tickets: must purchase in advance

Let's get together for an afternoon of inspiring adventure by attending the Lookout Wild Film Festival as a group. For six years the Lookout Wild Film Festival has brought the best outdoor adventure and conservation films from around the world to Chattanooga for one awesome weekend. Enjoy compelling on-screen stories that celebrate wild places and the people they inspire alongside hundreds of other adventure enthusiasts from around the Southeast. The 50+ official LWFF 2018 selections feature Antarctic mountain climbing, rafting through the Grand Canyon, Himalayan honey harvests and more. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. with showtime at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday January 27, 2018

Twenty Mile and Twenty Mile Loop day hike

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 11.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 2700 ft

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 3 hours

We will drive on the Tail of the Dragon to reach Twenty Mile Ranger Station. Starting there on Twenty Mile Trail, our loop climbs 2400 feet until we reach the AT at Sassafras Gap. If interested and we have a clear day, Shuckstack fire tower is another .5 south on the AT. We descend on Twenty Mile to the intersection on the Twenty Mile Loop Trail. There is another 300 foot gain on this 2.9 miles to Wolf Ridge, then back to the cars. Hike leader, Wayne Chambers, 423-593-3717.

Reports from the Field

Pot Point House Christmas Lunch

Wednesday December 13, 2017

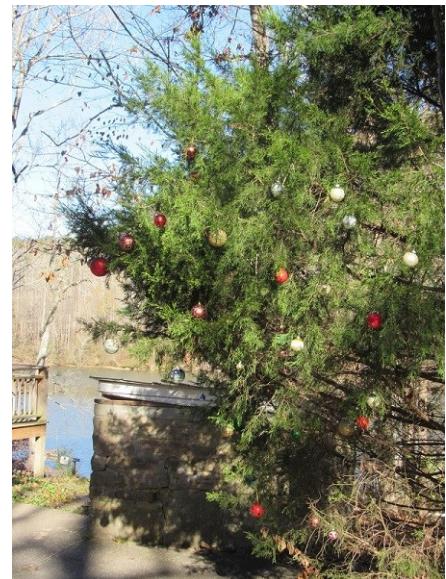
Stormy's job is to worry about getting our ever increasing number of hikers (some are + one) into the Pot Point House for our Christmas and year of hiking celebration, especially if weather is bad and we cannot spill out onto the deck. Once again, her worrying warded off the expected cold as the sun shone brightly down on the deck and sure enough a couple tables were set outdoors. Louis, Pete, Monty, John, Teresa, Mac, Susan, Debbie, Renee, Sue, and Charlie came early, and others trickled in to join the Trust helpers in setting up the tables, placing chairs, covering with table cloths, and adding little lanterns and greenery for decoration. Monty and John outdid themselves with room and deck decorations and the ever-growing Charlie Brown Christmas Tree. The hike on the Pot Point Loop trail was led by Rick Huffines. This year there was not a dedicated work effort - just light trash pickup - as we had worked on the Ritchie trail the week before. As others arrived after the hike began, the kitchen master Karen Rahn began to direct dishes to refrigerator, the oven, or to the tables.

Appetizers were set out and some nibbling began! When all hikers had returned the "whistle was blown" by Teresa and or Susan and all was quiet as Che greeted everyone, Stormy introduced our guests from the Trust, and Rick Huffines shared a few remarks about the value of volunteers to our trail systems and upkeep for the Trust properties. After a blessing for the food was requested by Bob Rahn the feasting began and feast it was. Bowls were scraped clean - not much in the way of leftovers. I can still imagine the laughter that day and the praise to Monty for the woven macrame bracelets - one for everyone who attended. I won't list everyone who came but the Trust guests were: Sarah Quattrochi, Mariah Prescott, Rick Huffines, Hugh Berz, and Elliot Bullock. A small but intense group, Boe, John, and Barbara put their heads together while the others were hiking, and planned a schedule of hikes for Saturdays for the next 6 months. Check the website or newsletter for upcoming outings. Happy Trails and Happy New Year to all!! Che Carico, reporting.



Reports from the Field

The "Charlie Brown" tree



Monty's wood art and his fireplace decor

Pictures
from John



Reports from the Field

Picture from John



Pictures from Barbara

Pictures from John

Outings Schedule

01/01/18	Annual New Year's Day hike (E/M/S)	J Rowland
01/06/18	Gahuti Backcountry day hike (S)	T Chomyn
01/13/18	CT Soddy Creek Gorge (S)	B McCollum
01/20/18	Lookout Wild Film Festival	B McCollum
01/27/18	Smokies Twentymile day hike (S)	W Chambers
02/03/18	Lookout Mtn day hike	B Rudder
02/10/18	Benton Mackaye Project	B McCollum
02/17/18	Smokies day hike	W Chambers
02/24/18	Fiery Gizzard day hike	J Rowland

Wednesday Day Hikes - Che Carico - The Wednesday group hikes many of the same trails as the weekend hikers. Since a schedule is not published in advance, notification of each week's plan is sent out by email on Sunday or Monday. Please call Che at **(423) 718-9271**, leave your email address, and ask to be added to the group list; or email her at MidWeek@chatthiking.com and likewise ask to be added to the group list.

Hike Difficulty Ratings

The information below is provided as a guide only. Each hiker assumes the risks associated with hiking in the great outdoors, including the responsibility of paying any bills associated with rescue efforts or medical care. The wise hiker always carries water, food, and first aid items.

Easy (E): 6 miles or less; mostly level or only slight incline.

Moderate (M): 6-10 miles with an elevation gain that will generally not exceed 350 feet per mile, with a total elevation gain of no more than 1000 ft.

Moderately Strenuous (MS): 6-10 miles in length, but include rocky trail conditions, tricky stream crossings, or elevation gain of more than 1000 ft but less than 2000 ft.

Strenuous (S): a distance of 10-14 miles or with more than 2000 ft total elevation gain, but no more than 3000 ft.

Extremely Strenuous (S+): Usually involves distances of more than 14 miles or more than 3000 ft in elevation gain. There might be very steep/rugged climbs, deep stream crossings, or unmentioned trails.

Pace: Standard pace is 2 miles an hour; less on steep or rugged terrain. Fast pace is 2.5 to 3 miles an hour or more and may not vary much regardless of terrain.

Attention: When calling to go on an outing, please specify exact number of people who will be attending. Do NOT just show up with a friend or family member unannounced! This puts your hike leader in an awkward position as most hikes involve some planning of transportation. Also we frequently hike in wilderness areas and other places where the number of hikers in a group is limited. If that is the case, and the hike is already full, you may be turned away!

Cancellations: Hike leaders are entirely at the own discretion regarding the weather. It is possible that a leader may decide that, due to weather conditions, they do not feel safe hiking on that day. Lightning kills many people every year and can strike hikers on a trail. Also many of the areas where we hike are prone to flash floods that can kill or injure. The leader will call if deciding to cancel before the day of the hike. In the event that the decision to cancel is made on the day of the hike, the leader will give you the courtesy of showing up at the designated meeting place to announce that the hike is cancelled.

Other Stuff

Christmas Luncheon Appreciation

A big "Thank You" to Che for her (annual) coordination of, and contributions to, the club's Christmas luncheon, as well as to Monty for the decorations, those who helped with the set-up, plus everyone who contributed in any fashion. It was a successful and wonderful occasion! An appreciative attendee, Donald.



Table setting at the Christmas lunch - from Barbara

Rock/Creek Discount Info

Show your Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Card, along with your ID at any Rock/Creek Store.

Chattanooga Hiking Club - 10% off one Item

*Applies to one non-sale, in-stock item. Can not be combined with other discounts or promotions. Offer does not apply to gift cards, boats, boards, coolers, & electronics. **In-store only.**

Club Officers and Support:

President - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954

Vice President - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525

Treasurer - Donald Box (423) 892-6754

Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750

Outings - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Newsletter/Webmaster - John Rowland (423) 802-7704

Membership Database - John Rowland (423) 802-7704

Membership Information - Chris O'Conner (423) 991-3220

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 886-5135

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)